

November 2011

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Dear Friends,

What do The MSU Riley Center in Meridian, William Kessler, Ltd. in Jackson, The Ford Center in Oxford, Peter Anderson Festival in Ocean Springs, The Bologna Center in Cleveland, and the Millsaps Arts and Lecture Series all have in common? They are each, in their own creative way, what we call “presenters”. Music venues, festivals, and any other group that organizes and presents live performances by a variety of performing groups can be considered a “presenting organization”. Mississippi presenters proudly showcase local, regional, national and international talent within their communities by way of events and festivals. Curating rich, artistic talent is just a part of what presenters do. By enriching, enhancing and educating our communities, these groups often go beyond center stage, and their audiences are often invited to participate in, and inform them on, what is meaningful and engaging by way of participation, surveys, evaluations, anecdotes, social networks and blog posts, with comments and critiques that could potentially evolve into the next exciting trend.

The type of presenting that is dedicated to bringing artists and audiences together throughout Mississippi makes our state a beacon for tourism and is something we should all celebrate.

When an organization presents a one-time event, a season of performances or a series, arts presenting establishes an avenue of communication, weaves a cultural connection, and impacts the creative economy as well as the community. To get a better idea of how all of this comes together, take a look at the recent Mississippi Creative Economy Study ([www.mscreativeeconomy.com](http://www.mscreativeeconomy.com)).

As mentioned earlier, presenters can range from libraries, arts and lecture series, college campus presentations, theatre, auditoriums, and community and performing arts centers. There is no lack of venues, but certainly understanding how to curate arts performances is an art itself. When the performances are rooted in artistic excellence, something of value is created for the public in the way of opportunity for continued discussion and potential collaboration.

The MAC annually attends the Performing Arts Exchange, produced by SouthArts in Atlanta ([www.southarts.org](http://www.southarts.org)), where presenting organizations from across the state exchange dialogue in an effort to accomplish congruent goals. The September 2011 conference was held in Baton Rouge and offered attendees the opportunity to sit down at the table together, discuss the joys and challenges of presenting, and engage in conversation about potential collaborative possibilities. A presenters' conference is just one way to stay abreast of trends, receive professional development training, and share the unique nature of presenting quality performances.

This year's conference featured a Gulf Coast Artist Showcase, a creative ensemble of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the conference host, the Louisiana Division of the Arts. The event spotlighted the talents of three gifted artists from each state, with Mississippi enthusiastically showcasing soulful singer/songwriter, Eden Brent, gripping performer, Guelel Kumba, and masterful puppeteer, Michael Richardson.

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Photo of MSU Riley Center in Meridian

## MAC Staff

Malcolm White  
Executive Director

Lee Powell  
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs  
Public Relations  
Director

Teresa Haygood  
Executive Assistant

Jodie Engle  
Whole Schools  
Initiative Program  
Director

Sallye Killebrew  
Special Initiatives  
Director

Mary Margaret Miller  
Heritage Director

Larry Morrissey  
Director of Grant  
Programs

Alesha Nelson  
Fiscal Officer

Shirley Smith  
Systems  
Administrator

Kim Whitt  
Arts Education  
Director

Diane Williams  
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead  
Arts-Based  
Community  
Development Director

The Mississippi Arts Commission continues the commitment to making the arts accessible to all Mississippians by supporting and assisting presenting organizations and individual artists across the state with expanded opportunities for open dialogue, facilitating original meetings, networking, and by deepening community connections. So, won't you join me at one of the many presentations we have coming up around our state? Some of the exciting samplings are *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* or *Garrison Keillor* in Meridian, *South Pacific* or *The Color Purple* in Oxford, *Spamalot* or *Young Frankenstein* in Jackson, acclaimed pianist, *Bruce Levingston*, or the Moscow Festival Ballet's *Cinderella* in Cleveland, and *Front Porch Contemporary Dance* or *Mississippi's Baseball Legacy* at Millsaps? Support performance in Mississippi, buy a ticket or two, take the family, and enjoy!

My best,  
Malcolm



Join MAC, MDA Tourism and Mississippi Main Street for an outstanding professional development opportunity for festival and event planners!

The event will be held at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi on January 24-25, 2012. The \$75 registration fee will include breakfast, lunch, snacks and some informative sessions to help your community plan and execute a better festival or event.

To register, send your contact information to Denise Halbach at [denisehalbach@msmainstreet.com](mailto:denisehalbach@msmainstreet.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The MAC staff is loaded with talent! Recently, two staff members, who are also outstanding visual artists, have received some pretty impressive recognition!

Diane Williams, Arts Industry Director for MAC, gained entrance into the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild for her outstanding creations in fiber. Members of the Guild are selected by a committee of their peers when they have achieved master craftsmen quality work.

Teresa Haygood, Executive Assistant, was chosen by *Portico* magazine as one of the 10 Rising Artists in Jackson for her amazing mosaic work. Congrats ladies....and most deserving, we must say!

## Calendar of Events November

### MSO Pops I: Another Opening, Another Show

November 19  
7:30pm  
Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, MS

### Arts Under the Dome Presents Deborah Henson-Conant

November 19  
7:00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, Gulfport, MS

### Bluegrass & BBQ Art Show

November 26  
4:00pm  
The Shop in Ridgeland

### Coming in December

### Capitol City Stage Band Dinner and Dance

Thurs, December 1  
7:00 p.m.  
Holmes Community College Grenada Corey Forum

### Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree

December 2  
7:30pm  
Belhaven University, Jackson

### Chimneyville Crafts Festival

Dec 2-4  
Check website  
Trademart, Jackson, MS

### 12 Ideas for Christmas Parties

Tues, December 6  
7:00 p.m.  
Millsaps College Recital Hall Jackson, MS

### Holiday Artwalk & Art Exhibit at Oddfellows Gallery

December 10  
4:00pm  
Downtown Hattiesburg, MS



Join the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Development Authority as we take Mississippi's Creative Economy on the road! If you missed it the first time or want to hear about it again, please join us at one of five regional meetings as we roll out Mississippi's Creative Economy Study: Realizing the Economic Potential of Creativity in Mississippi. Learn about the study, its findings, and state resources to help your community cultivate its creative economy.

Locations of the mini-summits are as follows:

November 29 - Perkinston, Gulf Coast Community College (deadline 11/22)

November 30 - Brookhaven, Mississippi School of the Arts (deadline 11/22)

December 1 - Meridian, Meridian Community College (deadline 11/22)

December 7 - Cleveland, Delta State University (deadline 12/2)

December 8 - Belden, Itawamba Community College (deadline 12/2)

To register, visit:

<http://mississippi.cvent.com/event/mceroadshow>

## THE CREATIVE ECONOMY IS BIG NEWS!

A letter from Malcolm White regarding the Creative Economy was featured on the National Endowment for the Arts blog.

<http://www.arts.gov/artworks/?p=10218#more-10218>

The creative economy is featured in 2011 Blueprint Mississippi.

<http://www.msmecc.com/index.php/activities/blueprint-mississippi>

## MAC WORKSHOPS

### COMING TO A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU!

MAC will be hitting the road soon and visiting a community near you! Staff members will present an overview of the agency's grant programs and other services. Included will be an in-depth discussion on how to prepare an application for the agency's upcoming annual grant deadline of March 1, 2012. First-time applicants are especially encouraged to attend. The workshop dates, times and locations are as follows:

**December 6 – 5:30pm at The Depot in Philadelphia** (This workshop will include a session on marketing and festival planning!)

**January 9 – 6:00pm at The Ellis Theatre in Cleveland**

**January 10 – 6:00pm at the Hancock County Library in Bay St. Louis**

**January 17 – 6:00pm at the Quisenberry Library in Clinton**

The week of January 30 – February 3, webinar workshops will be held via spiderphone. For more information, contact Larry Morrissey, Director of Grants at [lmorrissey@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:lmorrissey@arts.state.ms.us).





The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard statewide on Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting [mpbonline.org](http://mpbonline.org). The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

### Upcoming shows

November 20  
Malcolm White hosts with principals from Casey Elementary and Power APAC

November 27  
Larry Morrissey hosts with artists from the Mississippi Invitational

December 4  
Diane Williams hosts with writer, Sarah Campbell

***There are always flowers for those who want to see them.***

-Henri Matisse



The Big Read is now accepting applications for grants to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2012 and June 2013. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read will receive a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, access to online training resources, educational and promotional materials, inclusion of their organization and activities on The Big Read website, and the prestige of participating in a highly visible national program. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected by a panel of experts. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

To review the Guidelines & Application Instructions visit The Big Read Web site at <http://www.neabigread.org/>

## ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### **Director of Development USA International Ballet Competition Jackson, MS**

Will include local and possible overnight travel. Car necessary. Will lead fundraising, event planning, administering a marketing plan for the IBC, and assist in developing and overseeing a volunteer group.

Salary: Commensurate to education and experience.

Job/Position Summary: This position oversees all areas of development including planning, coordination, implementation and management of all fundraising activities. The Development Director works directly with the Executive Director and collaboratively with the Board, committees, staff and volunteers to develop and implement fundraising for the IBC.

To apply send resume and no more than five references to:

Sue Lobrano, Executive Director

[jobs@usaibc.com](mailto:jobs@usaibc.com)

### **Arts Education Director National Endowment for the Arts Washington, DC**

The National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency and the official arts organization for the United States government, supports the advancement of artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation. We are motivated by the vision of a nation in which the arts enrich the lives of all Americans and enhance the livability of communities. If you share our vision, please consider joining us.

Apply by visiting, <http://www.usajobs.gov/>

### **Executive Director Tennessee Arts Commission Nashville, TN**

For detailed information on this opening, visit <http://www.tn.gov/arts.index.htm>

The deadline to apply is November 30, 2011